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The Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners' Associations (CHA) hosted their One Million Snails event this past weekend where volunteers celebrated the milestone of having removed one million invasive snails from Haliburton County lakes. /TIM YANO Special to the *Echo*

CHA removes one million invasive snails

THOMAS SMITH

Staff Reporter

In 2020, the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners' Association (CHA) was approached by the South Lake Association of Cottagers and Residents to discuss an abundance of mystery snails covering the bed of their lake, reducing the enjoyment of boaters, paddlers, and swimmers in the County.

"They had been removing the snails and then found out that in order to remove the snails, they needed a license," said Paul MacInnes, chair of the CHA. "There are valid reasons why you need a license. We started enquiring and found out licenses were available. It took about two years to get a license and applied to one person on one waterbody."

"At this point the OFAH had been involved because they had been providing advice to us on how to remove the snails. The authority for granting these licenses was the Ministry of Natural Resources.".

"We had a serious problem and needed to develop a system to grant multiple licenses and to get them in the period of a couple of months, rather than years."

Over the winter of 2020, the Invasive Species Awareness program, CHA, and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters developed a new licensing program under scientific collections permit to allow hundreds of people to get the

see PROGRAM page 2

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NAPOLEON

Chinese mystery snails were unintentionally introduced to Ontario waters and are an invasive species. /TIM YANO Special to the Echo

Volunteers stop for a photo during the mystery snail clearing event.

Program receives international recognition

from page 1

license at the same time.

"In 2021, we ran a training program for approximately 400 volunteers from 40 different lakes and all of those people then passed their qualifications and were able to be listed under the master license that is controlled by the invasive species awareness program, so we started collecting snails," explained MacInnes.

"It's quite a process, we had to get permission form the four municipalities to dispose of these snails. They have to be handled very carefully, double bagged in clear bags. A seagull could pick up an invasive snail and drop it in another lake and suddenly you have the same problem in another lake."

"It was a big success, we had 400 people licensed and picked out over 400,000 snails the first year."

This year will be the fourth year of the Mystery Snail Project. Licenses were issued just before the May long weekend and will expire in the fall before the trout spawning season begins. The CHA is planning on collecting their 1,000,000th snail from the lakes in Haliburton County.

"We're never gonna be able to eliminate these snails. They breed very quickly. Each snail can give birth to approximately 100 baby snails each year and they do not come out as eggs, but as fully formed as snails with the shell. Unlike other snails that come out as eggs and can be quickly eaten by fish," said MacInnes.

"The snails can spread viruses and illnesses, cause swimmer›s itch and can get so thick you cannot walk in the water. When they die they float up and it is not comfortable to swim in the lakes."

Internationally, people have admired the program's success and presented it at international conferences like Belgium.

"We have an incredible volunteer community and people really care about the lakes. We continue to run the training program every spring and get a couple hundred people or so licensed every year."

"It's not a one time thing, I do my shoreline every second day or shore and I go back two days later and there will be less, but new snails in the area," said MacInnes.

"It points to the need for all of us to watch what we need to do like clean, drain, and dry our boats." That is the biggest single way that invasive species are spread throughout our lakes, said MacInnes.

As a snail harvesting volunteer, you go out and collect the snails. After collecting them, you have to fill out an online form that says where you collected the snails, provide pictures to verify the snail and how many snails were collected. Photos of the snails must be submitted to experts to ensure you are only collecting invasive species and not a native species of gastropod.

"We're dealing with volunteers, not people who are employees," said MacInnes.

"The fact that we have had 300 to 400 volunteers speaks volumes. That is a huge number of volunteers. People are pretty positive about it. They see a positive impact on their swimming area and boating area. These things also hurt the fish population because they outcompete other snails that are food for fish. It's been very, very positive. People keep coming out year after year."

"One of the principles of the program is that they are living creatures and they need to be euthanized in the most humane way possible. It has taken some time to figure out the best method. One of the first things that was suggested was to bury them," said MacInnes. "They have experimented with it and found that some were still alive after three months. The current method is to put them in double-bagged clear bags left out in the sun and the heat will euthanize the snails."

"It's a celebration for the folks on South Lake. Without them, the program never would have happened," said MacInnes.

"If we end with one message, clean, drain, and dry is so critical. I am so incredibly proud of this program and the volunteers we have in Haliburton County. We are known throughout the area and in North America for our dedication to lake health."

Still no date set for MPAC property assessments

JAMES MATTHEWS

Staff Reporter

There is still no word on when the next general assessment of property values in Ontario will be carried out.

Haliburton County council heard during its June 11 meeting that property values will continue to be based on the 2016 assessment, the last time such an evaluation was undertaken by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC).

And that puts municipalities of all sizes in a bind when prices for materials and services continue to increase following supply issues created by the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown. At least, that's often the reason given for price increases.

"Given when the last general assessment was done, that assessment does not cover the cost of servicing in municipalities," said Warden Liz Danielsen, the mayor of Algonquin Highlands.

"I know that it's not something that's within your control, when the next general assessment is done, but is there anything that you can say related to that, when the next general assessment will take place?"

The question was asked of Sarah Groves, account manager in municipal and stakeholder relations at MPAC.

"I do not have any information as to when the next general assessment update will occur," Groves said.

She said MPAC is part of an ongoing a provincial property assessment and taxation system review.

"So that is ongoing," Groves said. "I would anticipate that we may hear something when that review is done, but at this point we do not have a new evaluation date."

She said the agency has added more than $55 million to the assessment rolls in Haliburton County this year. That is about 35 per cent of what MPAC hopes to pick up for the whole year.

"So we are adding that new assessment to your rolls and recognizing previous years as well," she said. "Even though we've added $55 (million) to date this year, we've actually in fact added $111 million for this year plus the last couple years as well for structures that were completed in the last couple years."

Councillor Cecil Ryall, the deputy mayor of Highlands East, said owners of newly built houses pay current prices for permits, materials, and labour. And then their property is valued according to the benchmark set almost a decade ago.

"How do they get their value that they paid?" Ryall said. "The cost of the build in 2024 dollars is more than the 2016 value of the property had it been built in 2016."

"We time-adjust all of that information," Groves said. "There are calculations done in the background that would estimate what that house would have been valued at as of Jan. 1, 2016."

Earlier in her presentation to council, Groves said there are about 5.6 million homes in Ontario that are being tracked by MPAC. Coun. Bob Carter, the mayor of Minden Hills, wondered how many of that tally were built since 2016 and therefore have not been assessed using updated figures.

"All properties would have had an update as of Jan. 1, 2016," she said. "We have updated the values on them. Whether we have physically stepped foot on that property or done an inspection on that property is a different thing."

Carter said many people don't realize how their property taxes are calculated. MPAC should be responsible to answer such questions, not municipal staff.

"We don't have the resources to handle it," Carter said.

Groves said her organization is willing to support residents and municipalities to answer questions.

Coun. Murray Fearrey, Dysart's mayor, said there could have a property in his township that's listed for sale for $4 million and sells for $3.7 million but is assessed at $700,000.

"When I get somebody that just built a new place and they're assessed higher and they could only get $1 million for their place, how do I answer that question?" he said.

"Cottage country is a little bit of a different beast than your typical urban residential area," Groves said. "Your sales really drive what those values are going to become the date we get that evaluation."

"This is a bigger problem than I think you realize," Fearrey said.

Gary Dyke, the county's CAO, said the county calculates its revenue stream based on reassessments and apply it to the needs as expenditures.

"We were actually in a revenue deficit over the last eight years because of the length of time it's taken the province to realize the fact we're eight years behind in the assessed value of properties and it hasn't taken into account the inflation that we're paying for our services as well," Dyke said. "It's a balancing act."

"To be honest, as a taxpayer I don't understand tax rates," Ryall said. "I don't want to understand tax rates. I want to understand the number that's on the bottom of my tax bill. That's the only number that matters to me."

The new assessments, whenever they happen, is going to have higher valuations, he said. That will mean people will have taxes significantly higher than what they're accustomed to paying.

Ryall said a means is needed to pay such a large tax increase in increments over four years, as an example. Otherwise, ratepayers will be hit with a large increase at one time and not understand why the number at the bottom of their tax bill increased so drastically in one year.

Carter said people may end up waiting more than 10 years before the new assessments come about, given that no government would want to roll out such a change as the province nears an election year.

"If there's a discrepancy in how much one house went up over the other, that's where the confusion is going to be," Carter said. "I think it will go beyond confusion and directly into chaos."

Haliburton Rotary disappointed with misuse of Bike Share

VIVIAN COLLINGS

Editor

Since Haliburton Rotary introduced six bikes for free community use two years ago next to the Welcome Centre in Haliburton, members have been disappointed with damages the bikes have faced.

Rotarian Mike Landry said they won't be able to sustain the bike share if damages continue to occur.

"The first year, we saw quite a bit of damage. Last year was OK, but this year has been pretty awful so far," Landry said. "The service costs us $3,000 a year to maintain, and even more when bikes face damages."

The bikes are rented through an app called ON Bike Share where users can sign out a bike for up to three hours at a time.

Although a credit card is required for a security deposit, the bikes are free to use.

"We anticipated they would mostly be used in Head Lake Park and along the Haliburton County Rail Trail. We can't control where and how the bikes are being used once they're signed out," Landry said.

He explained it appears that bikes are being used BMX style and at the skate park, and it's hard to pinpoint exactly who has caused damage when bikes are being signed out multiple times a day.

"They are not meant to be ridden BMX style. One bike is completely out of commission."

Haliburton Rotary would like to ask residents to report any misuse of the bikes to the club.

"This is a free community service we provide, and we need all community members to use it properly so that the bikes can remain accessible to everyone."

ALGONQUIN OUTFITTERS
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One of six of the Haliburton Rotary's Bike Share program bikes are out of commission due to damages. /FILE

Annual Review

Haliburton 129 Army Cadet corps march off the parade square during their annual review on Tuesday, June 11. Cadets received awards for their accomplishments throughout the year, and the commanding officer position was passed from Corina Hall-Mansfield to Max Ward. /TIM YANO Special to the *Echo*

HHHS receives long-awaited CT scanner

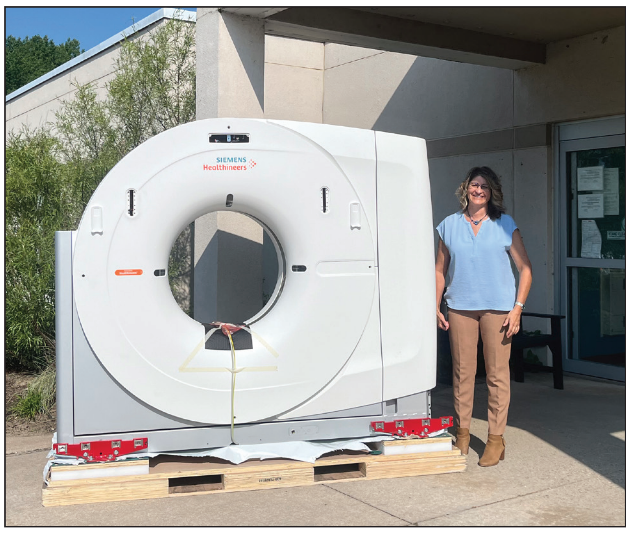
$500,000 Match Announced for Gifts to HHHSF Campaign Generous gift brings campaign for CT and state-of-the-art mammography closer to the Haliburton Highlands

The Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHS Foundation) Here for You in the Highlands campaign has received a significant boost thanks to a generous gift and pledge from long-time supporters Scott and Chere Campbell, who have made a substantial initial donation of $500,000 and have committed to matching community donations up to $500,000.

Scott Campbell stated, "This campaign is very important to improve health services locally for full and part-time residents, so we wanted to support the campaign with a significant gift personally. Our experience is that when people know their gift will be doubled with a match, it really encourages people to give. We also wanted to work with the Foundation to make this matching opportunity available."

The HHHS Foundation is raising funds to bring CT Scan and advanced Mammography equipment to the County along with other tools such as a new ultrasound unit and upgrading the Picture Archiving Communications System (PACS). This equipment will significantly improve the quality and speed of access to diagnostic imaging services locally. It is an important step forward in building a modern complement of healthcare services in the County that are Here for You when you need them.

"This is a real milestone for the Foundation." said David Blodgett, Chair of the HHHS Foundation, "When the matching portion is achieved, this will be the largest gift by individuals ever received by the Foundation. We are very grateful for the generosity and leadership of Scott and Chere Campbell."



Veronica Nelson, president and CEO of Haliburton Highlands Health Services, stands with the new CT scanner that arrived at the Haliburton Hospital on Monday, June 17. /Photo submitted

"As I engage with individuals throughout the County, there is an overwhelming desire for better access to health services locally," stated HHHS CEO Veronica Nelson. "We are profoundly grateful for the generous support from Scott and Chere Campbell. We also need your support and appreciate every contribution to the enhancement of wellness and care at HHHS."

With the gift from the Campbells, the HHHS Foundation has reached 78% percent of the $4.3-million goal. The HHHS Foundation will continue the Here for You campaign to raise funds for additional technologies that are badly needed, such as a new x-ray suite, to be able to respond to the evolving needs of the community.

While the Ontario Ministry of Health provides operating funds to HHHS, it counts on communities to raise the capital funds for new equipment.

"We are asking everyone across the County – full-time residents, part-time residents, cottagers, businesses, visitors – to open their hearts as the Campbells have done to contribute now," said Tayce Wakefield, lead volunteer for the Here for You Campaign. "If we all give at the level that we can, we will raise the funds the HHHS team needs to enhance care for us all."

To learn more about how HHHS is Here for You and how you can make a gift which Scott & Chere Campbell's pledge will match, please visit the Foundation website: hhhs.ca/foundation

For more information about the campaign and to discuss how you can get involved please contact, Executive Director, Melanie Klodt Wong (mklodtwong@hhhs.ca) 705-457-1580.

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Submitted

Happy swimming: E. coli beach monitoring begins

JAMES MATTHEWS

Staff Reporter

In a region with many lakes and beaches, having an accurate idea about the health of those waterways is paramount.

With summer nearing, the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit is about to kick off its Beach Water Monitoring program that will provide regular E. coli testing results across 56 monitored public beaches throughout the region.

Test results will be updated every Friday on the public health unit's website throughout the summer until Aug. 30.

E. coli can cause nausea, vomiting, headache, fevers, severe stomach cramps, and watery or bloody diarrhea.

Staff will collect water samples that will be forwarded to the provincial lab for E coli testing. The unit has a tricolour system to communicate the safety level of swimming.

Green or low risk means the beach is open and is safe for swimming.

Yellow or moderate risk indicates a warning that high bacteria counts may be in the water. Swimming is not advised and may lead to illness.

Red indicates a high risk and that the beach is closed because of elevated bacteria counts.

"Our Beach Water Monitoring program tests 56 public beaches weekly for levels of E. coli that can be potentially dangerous to one's health," said Bernie Mayer, the unit's health protection manager.

"Our 2022 Resident Survey showed that 69 per cent of respondents did not review the beach water test results before entering the water. Enjoy your summer but please also prioritize your health by staying informed."

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Catching up

Editorial

vivian collings

"NEW CT scanner a 'game changer' for local health care."

"Community's new CT scanner now operational."

"CT scanner becoming a reality."

"New CT scanner will improve wait times."

"Hospital hopes new equipment will attract doctors."

Headlines from other rural Canadian communities sound just like ours.

The only difference is that these were written a couple of years ago, not months.

We're the last county in Ontario to have close access to a computerized tomography scanner and mammography unit.

Lots of rural towns are making a case for a CT scanner to be present in every emergency department, even if they already have a scanner in their county.

Of course, Haliburton County only has one emergency department.

The loss of the Minden ER took us out of the healthcare race for a long time.

And it's not one we can afford to lose, not because of bragging rights or appearing "better than" other communities, but because our survival relies on it.

Real estate, business, development, and, obviously, resident and visitor health, depends on the quality of care we can provide.

Are we back in the race?

The big round CT scanner donut was wheeled in the doors of Haliburton Highlands Health Services yesterday.

Construction crews have been working since March preparing an unused space at the hospital for the machines, changerooms, washrooms, and control room that must accompany them.

Half of my immediate family lives in a small community in British Columbia.

Their town is lovely, but certainly not equipped with the best possible care.

For comparison, let's look at some of their statistics against ours.

The median age there is 40.

The median age here is 52.

Their population is 2,350.

Just last year, their neighbouring town received a mobile CT scanner.

The population of that town is 4,000.

Our county's population is nearly 20,000.

They have an emergency room that's only open a couple of days a week.

Some of my older family members had to move far away from that area to have access to necessary medical facilities. Lots of other seniors did the same.

Hence, the low median age.

But, they have a CT scanner.

And honestly, I wouldn't be surprised if the same eventually happened to Haliburton County's median age if we didn't have HHHS' Here For You campaign.

How many people do you know here that need to be away from the county, even for a few days a week, to attend medical appointments?

That little town with the tiny emergency room now has a CT scanner. And we're catching up.

The long-awaited CT scanner and mammography unit to come have given us an extra burst of energy in the middle of the healthcare marathon.

Maybe, these will attract new family physicians.

Maybe, more elderly residents can stay in the Highlands for a few more years.

We're nowhere near the finish line, but I become more and more confident that we have a good chance of being a healthy community.

So, here's to all of the tireless staff at HHHS providing care and making sure the best care can be provided.

And thank you to all of the generous donors for making it all possible.

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A Canadian Tiger Swallowtail pollinates blossoms. by Tammy Nash

The yearly event

Down Our road

sharon lynch

HE SHOULD have realized it when he finished packing the car. But it wasn't until he was halfway to his cousin's cottage that he remembered: his swimming trunks. Usually Matt kept them hanging over the driver's headrest for 'emergencies'.

An emergency could be driving on a very hot afternoon and seeing a water access coming up. Or it might be on a trip to the city with time to kill and a YMCA just around the corner. As an old boy scout, Matt liked to think of himself as a plan-ahead kind of guy, the quintessential 'be prepared' man.

So today he blew it. But then Matt didn't really want to go to where he was already headed. The annual family picnic. In theory it was a chance for the extended family to reconnect and get an update on what was going on in peoples' lives. But in practice it felt more like an eating extravaganza with swimming thrown in to trick people into thinking it was a healthy way to spend an afternoon.

Matt loved his family. However three hours of smiling, chatting and laughing at some pretty lame jokes could be exhausting for him. As cousin Jane once said, you could lock Matt in a room for a month and as long as he had food and access to a bathroom, he'd be quite content. When he heard that he had to silently agree. As an introvert, his favourite companion was himself.

But today was an important yearly event that he dared not miss. While his kids were no longer kids but adults with their own lives and priorities, Matt felt an obligation to attend. Sometimes one or more offspring made it to these picnics and other times they were a no-show. Matt understood. For him it was different. Seeing those familiar faces and listening to the stories were his connection to his youth.

They had all spent their summers at the cottages. Different lakes but same activities. Swimming was a big part, hence the bathing suit. Boat rides, water skiing, berry picking, card games, frog catching and fort building all filled those long and lazy days. And some of those activities still happened, though not the water skiing. Older bodies couldn't take that punishment.

Cousin Steve usually hosted the get-togethers. It was supposed to be a pot luck affair but Steve's wife Julie always went overboard. There was more than enough food on the big table and in the frig before any guests had arrived. Some years Matt left their place feeling like he didn't have to eat for a week.

Great -Aunt Irene usually sat in 'her' chair on the patio and waited for the rest of the family to approach. Not very mobile these days, she continued to preside over the scene while Steve or Julie kept her drink refreshed. She was always good for a story or two about cottage life back when she was a youngster.

Matt parked on the road since the driveway was already full. As he carried his favourite devilled eggs, a six-pack and a jacket 'just in case' up to the cottage, Steve met him halfway. Relieving Matt of the six-pack, Steve told Matt his old summer time romance was present. A friend of Julie's, she had been included since she knew everyone from all those years ago. Despite himself, Matt felt a flutter at the news.

As the two men headed for the cottage frig with the devilled eggs, Matt saw his old flame getting ready to dive off the dock. She still looked pretty good.

Once inside, Matt explained to Steve how he had left his swimming trunks back at his cottage. As is typical at most cottages, there were a few extras hanging around and Steve pulled out one, offering it to Matt. Old and ugly, it still fit the bill so Matt gladly accepted.

Then with a twinkle in his eye, Steve pointed out to Matt that if he hurried, he could join the other swimmer before she finished her swim.

After mumbling some response, Matt hurried into one of the bedrooms to change. Suddenly the family picnic was looking a whole lot more interesting than when he had set out.

points of view

Songs from the woods

Last weekend, while on the first of several walks, Jenn brought out her phone and got her Merlin Bird ID app going.

"What does that app do?" I asked.

"It identifies bird songs," she said.

Then, as soon as we heard the next bird, she touched the record button – and, within seconds, her phone told us it was a red-eyed vireo.

"Wow, that's neat," I said.

"Yes," she replied. "I think we are going to learn a lot by using this app."

And it was true.

OK, I don't mean to alarm you, but we are surrounded by red-eyed vireos. Surrounded, I tell you. Everywhere we went, there were red-eyed vireos. There were red-eyed vireos along the boardwalk in Minden. There were red-eyed vireos in the strip of woods behind our house. There were red-eyed vireos at the Sculpture Forest. There were red-eyed vireos along the river.

There's probably one watching you now.

Loon Tales

steve galea

Sure, there were also crows, blue-headed vireos, gold finches, yellow warblers, black-capped chickadees, Alder flycatchers, black-and-white warblers, American redstarts, cedar waxwings, common yellowthroats, hermit thrushes, song sparrows, red-winged blackbirds, and grackles in some of those places. But mostly, there were red-eyed vireos.

We are overrun with them.

This can't be good. They're up to something. I know it.

That's why I did a little research.

What I discovered was even more alarming.

Red-eyed vireos, it turns out, are the one bird that, given a cell phone, would gladly become a social media influencer.

Apparently, they never shut up.

My research says they are one of the most prolific singers in the bird world. They hold the record for the most songs given in a single day – more than 20,000. In short, they must drive the other birds crazy. When birds are put on hold, I'm pretty sure they are forced to listen to the song of the red-eyed vireo.

That song, I'm guessing, is the avian equivalent of "99 bottles of beer on the wall." But does that stop them?

No. No it does not.

This morning, I stepped out on our back deck and our local brown creeper could not get a word in edgewise. Its voice was drowned out by the song of a red-eyed vireo.

I strongly suspect this is why woodpeckers smack their heads against trees.

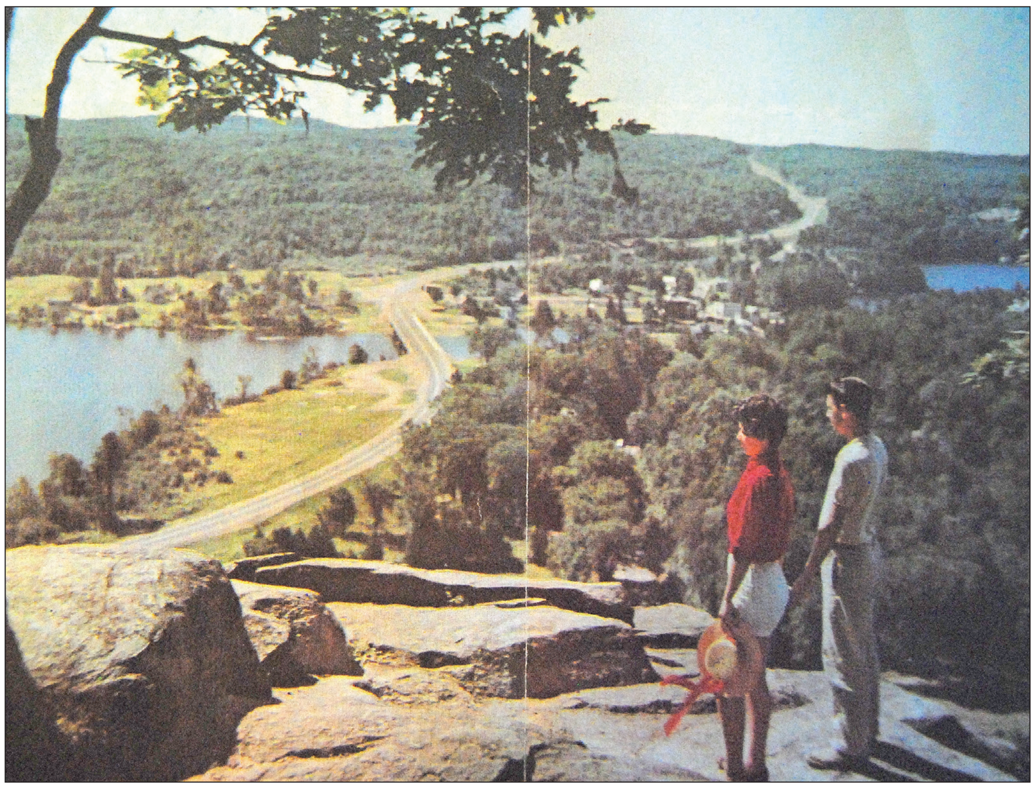
No one in the birding world has ever listened to the song of a red-eyed vireo and said, "Now there's something you don't hear every day."

Sure, there are those who defend them by pointing out that they have a nice song. Also, by noting that red-eyed vireos feed heavily on caterpillars and aphids. In fact, their defenders will tell you, they are one of the largest consumers of tent caterpillars in Ontario. Maybe so, but apparently, they do not eat enough to keep their mouths shut for even a minute.

Then again, what do you expect from a bird that drinks too much? And don't tell me they don't either. How else do you explain those permanently red eyes?

Anyway, I now have a Merlin app on my phone too, so I'm going to use it to monitor these red-eyed demon birds who make life unpleasant for us all. It's the least I could do.

Full disclosure: This column was paid for, in part, by the Association for the Preservation of Aphids and Tent Caterpillars.



pic *of the* past

This lookout has not yet been identified. It is from an undated pamphlet for the Haliburton Highlands created by the local chamber of commerce. Underneath it reads: Always beautiful – spring, summer, fall and winter. Land of rugged rocks, woods and forests, hundreds of crystal clear lakes, waterfalls, meandering streams and rivers. Altitude around 1,200 feet means warm days, cool nights and no hay fever! ... Little wonder painters and photographers return year after year!

letters to the editor

Blame tenants for property mess

To the Editor,

Re: June 11 edition of the *Echo*: Unsightly properties are a blight on HE. "Rental properties are the issue and landlords aren't looking after their properties," Galloway said.

Delinquent landlords? Really? Is it the landlords that are leaving piles of garbage all over the lawn of their rentals, bags of garbage piled high in the garage and not cutting the grass… or is it the tenants? Tenants that those landlords are probably trying to evict because they aren't paying the rent, destroying the house and accumulating unsightly piles of junk in the yard. Oh, there's no doubt that those landlords will eventually have to clean up all that mess, when and *if* they can once again get control of their property.

Of course, there are good long-term renters but in the situations that Galloway is referring to it seems that those long-term rentals are not only disastrous for landlords but are also a headache for the Municipality. Yet Highlands East hopes that by implementing a stringent STR bylaw landlords will convert their short-term rentals into long-term rentals.

I wonder, is the Municipality also experiencing these same clean and clear problems with Short-Term Rentals? I think not. Short-term renters leave a pile of money in the community, not a pile of junk on the lawn.

Mary Barker
Highlands East

Echo spurs Monmouth memories

To the Editor,

I saw with great interest the reprint of the first page of The Haliburton County Echo of June 10, 1981 that included the announcement of the printing of the book Monmouth Township 1881-1991. This was a big accomplishment for the members of the Monmouth Historical Committee. I have many memories of my parents and the other committee members researching information and photos to compile this book.

Our present Wilberforce Heritage Guild, formed in 1991, have carried on the work of preserving local history through our operation of the Wilberforce Red Cross Outpost Historic House, a National Historic Site of Canada. The Monmouth Township book is currently out of print but copies can be viewed at our museum. We are working on a project to have digital copies of the book available for free download.

Our museum is open this July and August, Wednesday to Monday (closed Tues) from 11am to 4pm each day. Everyone is invited to come to our 2024 Open house on Saturday June 22 at 2pm. We are located at 2314 Loop Road in Wilberforce. More information about our activities can be found on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/wilberforceoutpost.

Barb Schofield
Secretary of the Wilberforce Heritage Guild
Wilberforce

Active pathways network seeks community input

VIVIAN COLLINGS

Editor

With a picturesque lake, beautiful park, and quaint village, Haliburton is the perfect place to spend time out of a vehicle and immersed in the community.

A group of dedicated Haliburton residents are working to take this experience to the next level and make every corner of the community accessible to everyone.

The Active Pathways Network is working with a grant from the Active Transportation Fund of Canada to develop an effective wayfinding system for the village of Haliburton.

"We have lots of green space around Haliburton. We have parks and paths and trails, and we have some improved sidewalk projects, but they've all been designed separately, and there's never been an overall comprehensive strategy to bring them all together," said Pamela Marsales, Active Pathways Project local project coordinator. "It will be a way of lessening traffic in the high season, because if residents and visitors perceive ways to get from here to there by walking, biking, or wheeling without driving their car through town, then we'll all be happier."

Marsales and Friends of the Rail Trail (FoRT) brought the idea for the project to the Municipality of Dysart after seeing the announcement of the funding with a stream for planning.

"The planning projects bring together partners in a collaborative process to design projects that will best meet the needs of a community," Marsales said.

The first announcement for the funding was in March of 2021, and the grant opened for applications in March of 2022. The project began in October 2023.

Community member Tom Bell and planning consultant Jamie Bell have a look at a Haliburton Village map during one of the first walkabouts hosted by the Active Pathways Network. /Submitted by Pamela Marsales

The municipality is receiving the funding with the project being coordinated by FoRT.

"The planning team has all kinds of partners, and we've been holding hybrid meetings at HCDC's The Link."

Among the planning team is representation from Dysart, county tourism, Haliburton Highlands Health Services, Haliburton School of Art + Design, the Communities In Action committee, the Glebe Park committee, Haliburton Sculpture Forest, local businesses, and local residents.

They've been working alongside planning consultant Jamie Stuckless who is serving as the project lead.

"What we're doing now for the month of June is consulting with residents, visitors, people of all ages in Haliburton Village, and trying to find out how they are already walking, biking, and wheeling around the village or how they don't feel it's possible or comfortable to get around if they see barriers, so this information can all go into planning an ideal network of Active Pathways," Marsales said

Under the "wheeling" category is any type of people-powered wheeling such as a skateboard or push scooter, and it also includes mobility assistance such as wheelchairs and mobility scooters.

"At the end of this project, we hope to come up with a wayfinding plan to illustrate the whole network of routes, and from that, we already have a plan to apply for capital funding to actually install the wayfinding signage and maps of the whole network," Marsales said. "We expect the formal part of the project to wrap up in July."

Get in touch

To share input with the Active Pathways Network project planning team, the Friends of the Rail Trail tent will around the county for the month of June

"We've hosted one walkabout, and we're more than happy to do more of those if a group requests one."

"If anyone has any idea of where they think it would be a good idea for us to come, for example a seniors' residence or community meeting, we're mobile and can come to you."

Marsales said she can also co-host a walkabout at any trail or pathway in the village.

They also have an online survey active for all of June, and cards containing the QR code to access the survey can be found at various businesses around town, or visit fortproject.ca/networks.

Marsales can be reached by email info@fortprojects.ca or phone 705-457-4767.

"If anyone would like to join the planning team, they absolutely still can."

It's Waste Week

The week of June 17 is Waste and Recycling Workers Week!

During this special week of celebration, we thank the people who work daily to keep our communities safe and clean!

According to the industry association Waste To Resource Ontario, "the waste and recycling management sector contributes more than $4.23 billion to Ontario's economy and employs about 33,327 people in Ontario."

Haliburton County is made up of four local municipalities: Algonquin Highlands, Dysart et al, Highlands East, and Minden Hills. Each local municipality is responsible for operating its own waste management programs including recycling, disposal, and drop-off sites.

Between the four local municipalities, there are approximately 50 waste disposal site attendants, equipment operators, drivers, and managers, who are responsible for more than just customer service. They are also responsible for health and safety, site maintenance and operations, record keeping, and ensuring compliance with provincial regulations and local bylaws.

"Don't forget to bring your landfill user identification card every time you visit," said Sam Briggs, a waste disposal site attendant with Watson General Contraction, working for the Township of Algonquin Highlands. "We need to follow provincial rules, which means we can only accept waste from within the municipality. Your landfill card helps us confirm that. Provincial rules also require that we screen all materials entering the sites, so be prepared for us to take a look at what you are bringing in."

"Only use clear bags for garbage. That rule has been in place in Haliburton County since the early 2000s," said Steven Dudgeon, a Landfill Attendant employed by the Municipality of Dysart et al. "To save time, pre-sort your recycling at home. You need to separate your recycling into papers and containers. Papers include things like computer paper, magazines, and cardboard. Containers include things like cans, bottles, and plastic tubs and lids."

"Our landfills are facing more and more waste than ever before. The importance of reducing, reusing, and recycling is crucial to the environment and the lifespan service of our landfills. We all have a role to play in this, from purchasing reusable items, to properly sorting recyclable material from our waste. By embracing this way of thinking, we can protect our environment and create a healthier earth for generations to come," said Mark Lewis, a Landfill Attendant employed by the Municipality of Highlands East.

"Download our free mobile app Haliburton County Waste Wizard," said Mason Gordon, a Waste Disposal Site Attendant employed by the Township of Minden Hills. "In the app, you can look up items to learn how to properly recycle them, and you can get reminders about upcoming events like Household Hazardous Waste Days."

As we celebrate Waste and Recycling Workers Week, we thank all the waste disposal site attendants, equipment operators, and drivers, for making waste management programs in Haliburton County so successful!

Submitted

Steven Dudgeon, above, from Dysart et al and Mason Gordon, below, from Minden Hills, are local waste disposal site attendants working at the Minden Hills and Haliburton landfills to oversee waste management programs. They are some of the employees being celebrated by the County for Waste Disposal Week. /Submitted

Teeny Tiny Summit offers innovative solutions

VIVIAN COLLINGS

Editor

The crowd gives Peter Kenyon, Haliburton County's Teeny Tiny Summit keynote speaker, a round of applause at the end of an inspiring day on Thursday, June 6 at the Minden Community Centre. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

Haliburton County's first ever Teeny Tiny Summit last Thursday left attendees feeling inspired, with stories of other unique, small, successful communities swirling in their minds.

Peter Kenyon was the event's captivating keynote speaker.

He's the founder of Bank of IDEAS, a community and economic development consulting firm based in Australia.

Kenyon has been to countless small communities in 59 countries, helping inspire them to come up with new ideas to not only stay afloat but thrive.

The best asset in each community? The people.

"Every town, every person has assets, no exceptions. The key is recognizing whose gifts are underlooked in a community," Kenyon said. "You need to start putting in place at the community level how to come together and make all of this work. Having only a few people on a committee is not community engagement. We need to engage the broader public."

He gave examples of a few communities across the globe that had implemented innovative ideas based on the strengths and talents of residents, especially ones that had been overlooked.

Local guest speakers proved that Haliburton County is moving in the right direction with new ideas to help support the people within the community to create career opportunities, infrastructure, support the local economy, and promote well-being.

Places for People spoke about their community bonds fundraising initiative, and the Haliburton County Home Builders Association shared home building and skilled trades initiatives that are being worked on in partnership with the county.

After lunch, representatives from Point in Time's Youth Wellness Hub shared the life changing ways the Hub supports local youth.

"I never used to be like this, outgoing and excited to talk. The Hub really brought me out of my shell," said one high school student.

The Youth Wellness Hub provides mental health and addiction services, peer support, primary care, employment services, and income support.

Next, the Haliburton County Development Corporation spoke about their Local Initiatives Program Grants.

Through this year's program, they were able to fund 21 innovative projects.

Sue Tiffin from the County of Haliburton then gave an overview of the county's new Community Safety and Well-Being plan.

The plan aims to shift reactive-based approaches to proactive approaches like prevention and early intervention to ensure members of the community receive the best care for their specific needs.

Kenyon concluded the summit with, "We need to start looking at what we've got instead of focusing on what we don't have. If all you're doing is servicing a community, you're not strengthening it. Dream big, start small, but act now."

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Amazing Race brings wacky shenanigans to Minden

THOMAS SMITH

Staff Reporter

Minden Community
FOOD CENTRE
Project By
Arcadia Masonic Lodge
a joint venture with
Minden Food Bank
HELPING HANDS
Rotary

From left Haliburton Highlands Amazing Race co-founders Renate Black and Anna Froebe pose next to Jean Munroe and Lynette Gray from the Minden Community Food Centre. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

Anna Froebe and Renate Black are co-founders of the Haliburton Highlands Amazing Race. This event was created for participants aged 50 plus with the goal of having fun and raising money for the Minden Community Food Centre.

"This is a car rally type event where participants register with us. We have nine couples that are registered that will be in their vehicles going from station to station. They will be performing physica, sometimes intellectually stimulating tasks," explains Anna Froebe. "Everything will be scored so there will be some type of timing or measurement to complete the activity at each station."

"In between, there are things we call focal points, so in the time it takes to get from one station to the next, they can take the time to gain bonus points. For example, they may be taking a specific photograph of something. They are just fun, quick and dirty events just to have some fun and to add to the competition," said Renate Black.

"At the end of the day, there is a bbq party at our base," said Froebe. "Points will be gathered from the volunteers at each station and then we will be awarding prizes for first, second, and third."

"For this year, it is based in Minden only," said Froebe. "We wanted to keep the travel in between the stations limited. We thought about having the stations between Minden and Haliburton, but it is 20 minutes to half an hour there and back again. We wanted to have more activities and less travelling."

No stations or activities have been announced, but it has been teased to the Times that activities will not only take place on land, but on the water as well.

"We are partnering with the Minden Community Food Centre," said Froebe. "They are one of the stations in which participants will be doing a specific task to support the food centre. We are asking all participants as part of their registration, which was $20 and matched by one of our sponsors, to bring non-perishable food items for the centre."

"There are several activities throughout the day that will help support and bring awareness to the food centre," said Frebe.

"There could be shenanigans going on throughout the community," said Frebe. "There could be weird stuff and we want business owners and the community to be aware."

Participant slots are now full, but the Haliburton Highlands Amazing Race is still looking for volunteers. Sponsors are also needed to help support this event.

"Sponsors will be recognized throughout the day and acknowledged," said Froebe. "From us, you will get some advertising throughout the day, be it in the form of spectators, participants, and on the radio."

The Minden Community Food Centre is a valuable source and background in the community," said Froebe.

"We realized the need within the community, the numbers are staggering. We have become more aware of some of the services they do. Renate and I have been working on this project for 10 months." Initially, Froebe thought of the idea before the summer of 2020. The idea was put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We first sent out an email to all of our closest friends and family and said if they were interested, they'd have to let us know by such a date," said Froebe. Four partner spots were filled, with the remaining five being filled through ads posted online through Marketplace and Facebook event groups.

On August 17, you may notice participants wearing matching outfits or accessories. Consider this your warning that a participant may ask you for an item, picture, or autograph to assist their Amazing Race adventure.

"Next year, we'll probably do a repeat. As to whether it will be larger or not, we are not sure," said Black. "We will have to see."

"We are wanting to do it for fun. We are looking to have engagement from community members and have some involvement with our partnership for the centre and to bring greater community awareness, support, and sponsorship," said Froebe.

> “
>
> ***There are several activities throughout the day that will help support and bring awareness to the food centre."***
>
> — Anna Froebe, co–founder of the Haliburton Highlands Amazing Race

"For the month, there are probably 250 families that use our services," said Lynette Gray, assistant manager of Minden Community Food Centre. "That number is getting bigger every year."

The Minden Community Food Centre also offers services for those in need of other toiletry items and can assist in finding bedding, shelter, and more.

"Everything helps. Every little thing that people can do can make a difference," said Gray.

Food insecurity affects people of all ages and backgrounds within our community. If you would like to volunteer with this event, please email haliamazingrace@gmail.com.

If interested and able, the Minden Community Food Centre accepts non-perishable food items at their location at 24 Newcastle Street in Minden. If you would like to contribute financially to the food bank and fight food insecurity in Haliburton County, you can do so on their website mindencommunityfoodcentre.ca/donate or donations can be accepted by volunteers Mondays and Wednesdays at 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS
HEALTH SERVICES

You are cordially invited to the

28th Annual Meeting of the
Haliburton Highlands Health Services Corporation
Thursday, June 27, 2024
HHHS Minden Auditorium
6 McPherson St., Minden

1:30-2:00 p.m. – Arrival / Registration / Refreshments
2:00-2:45 p.m. – Annual Meeting*
2:45-3:30 p.m. – Question & Answer Session**

Annual Meeting business will include:
Minutes of June 22, 2023 Annual Meeting
Corporate By-law & Professional Staff By-law Refresh
Election of Directors
2023-24 Audited Financial Statements / Audit Report
Appointment of Auditors
Report of the Corporation / Foundation

**Invited guests are welcome to observe the Annual Meeting. Please note that per Corporate By-law Article 4.8, voting is limited to Corporate Members in attendance in person.*
***All attendees in person and virtual are welcome to participate in the Q & A Session.*

Please RSVP to hhhsceoboardoffice@hhhs.ca by June 21, 2024, if you will be attending virtually or in person due to limited seating capacity. Zoom link and instructions will be provided two days before the event. The Annual Meeting will be recorded and made available on the HHHS website.

Garlic scapes, Bambi, and Japan, don’tcha know

Part Two

Maybelle’s

Fireside stories

DEAR READER:

Now, I promised that I would flap my lips a bit more about my recent trip to Japan with my wonderful old friend, Florie, which was so thrilling, I just don’t want to let go of it. But first, I want to say how gobsmacked ol’ Maybelle was when I returned home to Lake WhaddayathinkImean and found that all the garlic I had planted last October had scapes growing on them, A WHOLE MONTH EARLY! That’s right. (I’ve already made a super delish pesto, and given scapes to friends and neighbours.) Oh, and my hostas were lush and singing, thanks to Beanpole who came by while I was away and sprayed them with the totally effective super stinky smelling homemade deer repellant that Agnes McDillyworth concocted. It’s worked for years and it’s still working. You just have to spray at least every other day and ALWAYS after it rains, don’tcha know.

Now, in Japan, Bambi and her extended family are revered as divine spirits. That’s right! Why, hundreds of folks come every day to Nara Park (Nara is Japan’s first capital) just to feed the deer by hand, don’tcha know. Oh, the joy and laughter of the school kids who get up close to pet and feed them. Florie and ol’ Maybelle joined in feeding Bambi and friends rice cakes that we bought for a few yen.

Ah, let me paint the whole picture.

We started our adventure in Tokyo, then traveled to Hakone, Osaka, Nara, and Kyoto. We averaged 8,000 steps a day walking on beautifully kept grounds of Shinto and Buddhist temples and shrines, one that dated back to 645, would you believe. Now, I’ve seen pagodas in movies and books, but seeing them up close was like Rod Sterling transported us to the Twilight Zone.

In one building, where it was extremely dark … why if Florie and I didn’t walk among hundreds of lighted lanterns hanging from the ceiling, glowing, flickering everywhere we looked. It was magical! And meaningful. Each lantern had been donated to the temple by local supporters.

Then, on the other side of calm, was the open-air fish market in Tokyo, bustling with locals choosing from a dizzying array of seafood. AND, the lower level of a major department store filled with food concessions selling raw and cooked foods the likes of which ol’ Maybelle had never even dreamed. And, confectionary. Why, everywhere we went in Japan, be it a small area or bustling city, there were always sweet shops, selling many Japanese treats filled with black and red bean paste and fine green tea powder used as an ingredient. And the way each sweet was wrapped. Why you’d think it was somebody’s birthday!

So many things struck me about Japan, but at the top of the list: Whether we were in a city or picturesque country hillside, everywhere we looked it was clean clean clean clean clean. Public bathrooms… immaculate. Cars, trucks, all looked like brand-new Tonka toys. Yes, they were way smaller than our North American gas guzzlers. And, whether we were in a fancy shmancy restaurant or a mama-papa diner, we were always given a moist towelette to clean our hands and refresh. Which ties into the other thing that impressed this ol’ apple doll about the Japanese culture: RESPECT. Respect for nature and for one another. It’s so ingrained and I think it’s a reflection of their Shinto and Buddhist religions which are all about harmony, balance, and, in inner purity. Every time a person greets another, they do a wee bow of the head. And, even in the most congested parts of a city, you can always find a small outdoor shrine where you can take a moment and say a prayer.

Art, food, confectionary. Why if we didn’t have museums comin’ out of our eyeballs. But, in a grand, wonderful way, don’tcha know. The Tokyo National Museum, the oldest national museum in Japan and home to a great big collection of Japanese art and antiquities was awe and then some. And the Hakone Open Air Art Museum, (in scenic Hakone), was definitely a big WOW!

Situated on roughly 70,000 square meters of parkland with distant vistas of mountain and sea, the museum’s collection of over 120 works by Auguste Rodin, Henry Moore, Taro Ikamoto and many other renowned modern sculptures are on permanent outdoor display. Add to that, a building totally dedicated to 319 ceramics of Picasso, which he created in his latter life, a happy, more playful part that you could easily see in his artworks. Ol’ Maybelle loves this quote of his: “It took me four years to paint like Raphael, but a lifetime to paint like a child.” Oh, what joy to see HIS joy in his playful ceramics.

Did I mention the aerial sky-train that Florie and I took to see majestic Mt. Fuji? Well, there are a few more things that I’d love to share with you next time. So, Dear Reader, please stay tuned, and remember:

Behind those rain clouds, the sun is always shining.

And if you can’t see it, then you just shine in its place!

Maybelle’s Fireside Stories is written by Jerelyn Craden. “Maybelle’s Cure for What Ails You,” 21 of Maybelle’s best short stories is now available at www.amazon.com.

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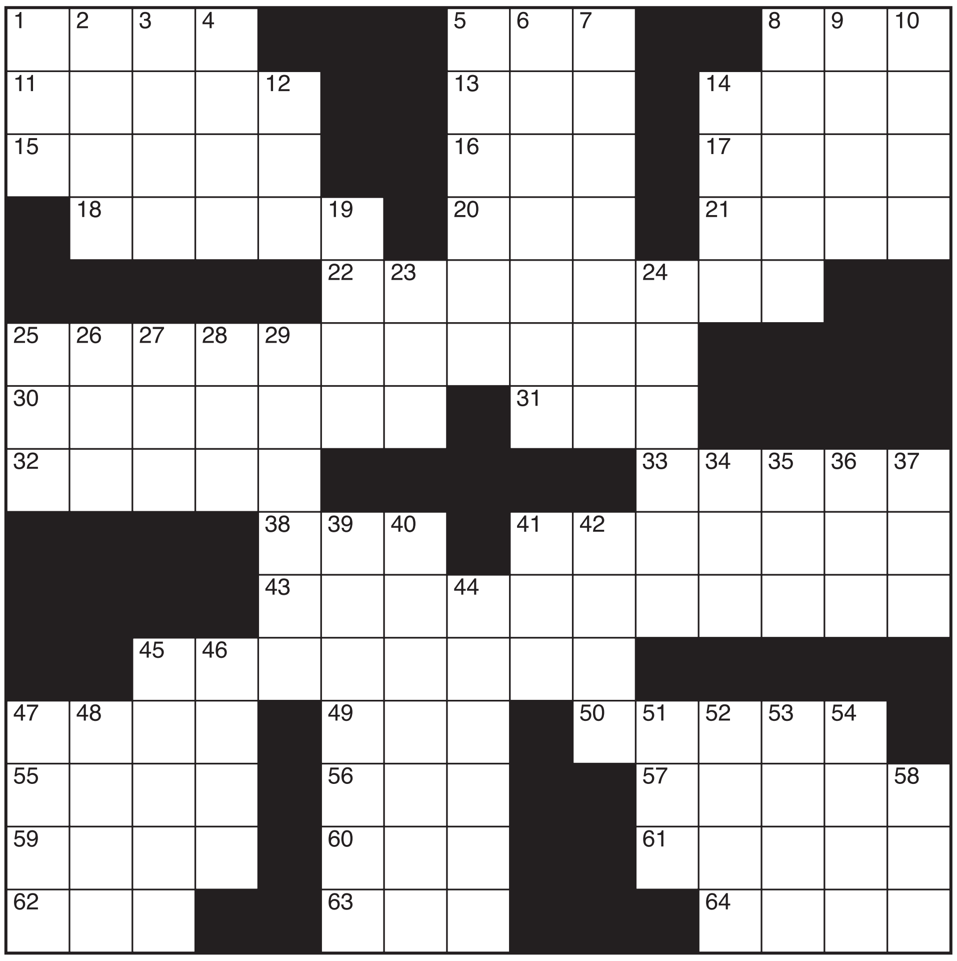

CLUES ACROSS
1. Breezed through
5. Supervises interstate commerce
8. Unruly group
11. Backs away from
13. Expression of understanding
14. Have concern for
15. Monetary units
16. Congressman (abbr.)
17. Iranian city
18. Eating houses
20. 2,000 lbs.
21. Grandmother
22. They include North, South and Central
25. In an early way
30. Foes
31. Shuttered British entertainment magazine
32. One who unloads cages
33. Another term for sesame
38. Formally forbid
41. Make clear
43. Inaccessible
45. Get through
47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
49. Decameter
50. Type of sword
55. Actor Idris
56. Affirmative (slang)
57. Afflicted
59. One point north of northeast
60. Born of
61. Arabic name
62. Traditional Hong Kong street food: __ pai dong
63. Termination point
64. Email function

CLUES DOWN
1. Sign language
2. In style
3. Helsinki neighbourhood
4. Unable to hear
5. More rapid
6. An idea accepted as a demonstrable truth
7. In a cagy way
8. Kate and Rooney are two
9. Algerian port
10. Community in Ladakh
12. Midway between south and southeast
14. Town in Galilee
19. Satisfy
23. Italian impressionist painter
24. Brass instrument
25. Chest muscle (slang)
26. Transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm
27. Records electric currents generated by the brain
28. Woman (French)
29. Aircraft designed to carry lots of passengers
34. Baseball stat
35. Pointed end of a pen
36. Popular sports league
37. Body part
39. Unlikely to provoke dissent
40. Yellowish cotton cloth
41. Domesticated house pet
42. Untruths
44. Set out to attract
45. Spiritual leader
46. Abba __, Israeli politician
47. Repair
48. Genus of flowering plants
51. Swiss river
52. Prejudice
53. River in central Europe
54. Harness
58. Father

Answers on page 14

Poverty and Food Insecurity in Haliburton County

Haliburton County is known for its beautiful lakes, countryside, and thriving arts community. Our population swells dramatically in summer, when tourists and seasonal residents flock here to enjoy all the wonderful things the County has to offer. But a less known fact about our County is that almost 13% of local households here are considered low income. Many individuals and families are struggling to pay rent and buy healthy food. Children are coming to school without a proper lunch or with a lunch that they may feel doesn't meet the mark of their peers. These experiences are chronic stressors and can even lead to significant physical and mental health challenges.

According to the HKPR report Addressing Food Insecurity and Poverty in 2023, earning a living wage means you have enough income to meet your basic needs and provide a suitable quality of life. The hourly wage required to achieve this in Haliburton County has been calculated at $20.60. Yet, the Ontario minimum wage is still just $16.55. This means many of our local residents are almost 25% short of the income required to have a decent standard of living.

The Canada Mortgage and Housing Guide recommends that households spend no more than 30% of their income on housing, to ensure there is enough money left over for other basic needs. Yet, according to the HKPR report, nearly two-fifths (39.8%) of tenant-households spend more than 30% on housing in the HKPR district area.

Research has shown that the indirect costs of poverty, such as remedial education and social assistance programs, are far higher than the costs of actually lifting people out of poverty. Food banks, though temporary solutions, should be recognized as an important resource, while also acknowledging that not everyone feels comfortable accessing them.

In order to understand poverty and food insecurity in our community, it is imperative that we challenge our own perspectives using the lens of economic class to understand our own societal position and that of others, and consider long-term solutions. Employers must consider whether their hourly wage is actually a living wage and if there are things they can change to support this, such as professional development opportunities and annual pay increases. Most importantly, in order to address the root cause of poverty and food insecurity, we must advocate for income-based solutions, such as increases to minimum wage and basic income guarantees, and other methods of increased income security.

Submitted Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents

Supporting SIRCH's The Last Chance Project

PSA - Exciting News. Join Us for Our Online Auction

Get ready to bid for a purpose! SIRCH Community Services is thrilled to announce our upcoming online auction, where every item has a story of community generosity and skilled craftsmanship. Thanks to the incredible support of our community, we've gathered a few items, each lovingly fixed, repaired, or refinished by our Last Chance Coordinator, Kevin Dunlop, who also happens to be a talented woodworker!

From refurbished furniture to beautifully restored antiques, our auction has one of a kind furniture items for all the Antique Lovers in the area! Plus, every bid you make directly supports our mission of diverting reused items from the landfill and using the proceeds to feed struggling families! So, not only will you walk away with a fantastic find, but you'll also make a meaningful impact on those in need.

These special Auction items are being showcased at the SIRCH Bakery & Bistro, 49 Maple Ave., in Haliburton. Drop in and see the how each piece has been beautifully restored, repaired or refinished. You'll also have a chance to view the Cedar Chest that Kevin lovingly restored and applied his Marquetry skills to, to create a Canoe that is reflective of our beautiful lakes here her in Haliburton!

Save the Date: Friday June 14 until bidding closes Saturday June 29th at 5 pm.

To bid on these Auction items, simply go to https://www.nonprofitbidding.org/ or scan the QR Code seen in various locations in the community and on social media.

Spread the word, invite your friends, and let's make this auction a resounding success! Together, we can create positive change while celebrating the spirit of community and craftsmanship.

"The Last Chance Project" is a SIRCH Community Services Pilot Project to help keep wood furniture with good bones that can be restored, refurbished or repurposed from going to the Landfill! This program is currently running at our Thrift Warehouse location at 128 Mallard Rd., Haliburton and will continue until October 2024.

Submitted by SIRCH Community Services

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online
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Shrimply the best

Wilberforce Legion Branch 624 hosted its annual community Shrimp Boil on Saturday, June 15. /TIM YANO Special to the *Echo*

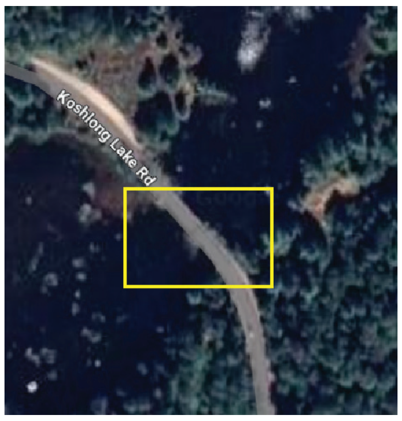
Canadian Navigable Waters Act
PUBLIC NOTICE

The Municipality of Dysart et al hereby gives notice that a submission has been added to the Common Project Search (online registry) pursuant to the Canadian Navigable Waters Act described herein and its description.

Pursuant to paragraph 4(1) of the said Act, The Municipality of Dysart et al has deposited a notification of construction in accordance with the requirements set out on the *External Submission Site*, on the online Common Project Search Registry (http://cps.canada.ca/) and under registry number 2024-411709, a description of the following work:

- Removal of existing wood bridge and temporary steel bridge.
- Installation of 4 corrugated steel pipe culverts contained within a sheet pile headwall.

The work will occur across Burnt River, at approximately 44° 58' 56.92" N x 78° 31' 16.75" W, Lot 8 Concession 2, on Koshlong Lake Road, in the Municipality of Dysart et al., County of Haliburton, in the Province of Ontario. The proposed culvert construction will span across the Burnt River as shown below:



The construction was proposed to occur between July 2nd and October 1st, 2024, and would generally entail:

- Implement sediment and erosion control measures.
- Installation of a signalized bypass bridge for the duration of the project.
- Removal and disposal of existing asphalt pavement, temporary steel bridge, and original timber bridge.
- Perform dewatering and excavation for proposed culverts, which includes temporary water diversion piping.
- Installation of four 3400mm DIA. CSP culverts and a sheet pile headwall.
- Complete appropriate granular for road base, hot mix asphalt, pavement markings, and guide rails.

Local volunteers celebrated

The Ontario government is recognizing 6,650 community leaders through the 2024 Ontario Volunteer Service Awards. The annual award honours adult and youth volunteers for their outstanding contributions and continued service at organizations such as non-profits, schools, community centres, hospitals, libraries and community associations.

"Volunteers are the backbone of Ontario communities," said Michael Ford, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism. "Through the Ontario Volunteer Service Awards, we honour the outstanding volunteers who touch our lives and recognize their ongoing dedication and service to the well-being of their communities and our province."
Five of the over 20 individuals from HHHS who were recognized for their years' service at a ceremony in Huntsville on June 13.

From left, David Zilstra 10 years with HHHSF, Marie-Lee Zahab five years with HHHS, Rosalind Clare 10 years with HHHS, Brigitte Gebauer Volunteer Services Coordinator for HHHS, Elizabeth Matthews 10 years HHHS, Karin Koch 20 years with HHHS. /Submitted

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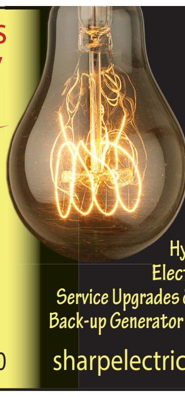

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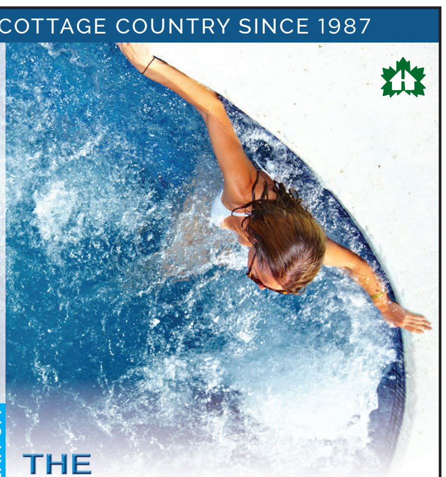

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540 COMING EVENTS

SIRCH community services

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Monday, July 22, 2024
5:00 p.m.

SIRCH will be hosting its AGM at the SIRCH Bistro & Bakery, 49 Maple Avenue, Haliburton. The meeting agenda will include the Auditor's Report, Election of Directors, Appointment of Auditor.

Members of the public are invited to attend. Please contact us for more information.

Phone: 705-457-1742
Email: info@sirch.on.ca

400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Hyland Ice Supply, now accepting applications for 2024 summer season for **G Drivers**. Please contact us via e-mail or telephone at **info@hylandice.com** or **705-448-2973**, attention Carol

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SIRCH is seeking a **Casual Position Driver.** Needed for 1 to 2 days a week to transport goods and/or people. Must be an experienced driver with clean Driver's Abstract and vulnerable sector police check. Lifting is involved. $21/hour. Contact us at info@sirch.on.ca or call **705-457-1742** to apply

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- feature writing
- photography
- searching out story ideas

The successful candidate must have access to their own transportation.

Interested candidates should forward their resume with writing and photography samples to Editors, Vivian Collings or Thomas Smith by **Friday, June 21, 2024**

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640 IN MEMORIAM

Nicholls, Barbara

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Quietly remembered every day,
No longer in my life to share,
But in my heart mom
you're always there.

Lovingly remembered
by daughter, Cheryl

650 OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Sondra "Sunny" Gail Strath

Resident of Vero Beach, Florida

On Saturday, May 18th, Sondra Gail Strath, loving mother of six and beloved wife of the late Alan Strath, passed away at age 86.

Sunny, as she was known, was an avid scrapbooker and talented greeting card maker as her friends and family can attest to. She loved to read, spy and murder mysteries being her favorite genres. She was feisty and determined and taught herself how to do her own online banking and bill pay after her husband passed in 2009. She loved working on Ancestry.com exploring her heritage; wrote her annual Christmas letter keeping friends and family updated on the goings-on of the previous year, and never missed a birthday or anniversary.

She was a wonderful mother and had six children in seven years… a gargantuan feat! She instilled in her children a love of nature and respect for the environment, a strong moral compass, and compassion for others. She loved animals and the house was always full of assorted furry friends, dogs, cats, hamsters, guinea pigs, rabbits, and even an iguana. She worked for the local veterinarian and brought home many stray and abandoned dogs.

Sunny was fierce at all of 4'8" and 116 pounds soaking wet and even stared down a knife wielding robber when she worked as a night auditor at a hotel in Milton, ON Canada with a "you've got to be kidding" and then ducking into the office, locking the door and calling the police.

She is survived by her six children, Deborah, Kimberly, Douglas, Leslie, Steven and Scott; her nine grandchildren; her eleven great grandchildren and her two great-great grandchildren; her sister, Bobbi and assorted nieces and nephews.

Celebration Of Life

A Celebration of Sunny's Life will be held at **THE COMMUNITY ROOM** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209 on Saturday afternoon, July 13, 2024, from 2-4 p.m. A time of sharing will take place at 3 p.m. As an expression of sympathy, donations to Woodland Wildlife Sanctuary would be appreciated by the family.

650 OBITUARIES

Jack Henry Wanninkhof

(Wilberforce, Ontario)

With great sadness, Jack passed away on Wednesday, June 5, 2024, at Haliburton Hospital with his wife and sisters at his side, at the age of 61. Devoted and loving husband of Jacqueline (nee Dempster). Married in October 2010, and a couple since February 1993. Much loved and cherished brother to Margaret (Layne) and Andrea. Predeceased by his parents, Anne (nee DeGroot) and Jacob. Brother-in-law to David -deceased (Donna), Gary -deceased, Scott (Lenore), Mark, Kelly (Shane -deceased), and Bobbi-Jo (Glen). Proud uncle of Kyra (Mark) and Tegan as well as Shannon (Ian), Whitney, and Emma. Great Uncle "Our Big Jack" to Sadie and Royce. He will be fondly remembered by his extended family in Canada and the Netherlands. Jack will be especially missed by a never-ending circle of friends and "brothers" who shared the same passion for all things with motors, scrap, parts, restoration, NASCAR, mud racing, snowmobiling, horseshoes, curling, and hockey.

Celebration of Life

A Celebration of Jack's Life will be held at the **LLOYD WATSON CENTRE** 2249 Loop Road, Wilberforce on Sunday, July 7, 2024, from 1 to 4 p.m. Tributes at 2 pm. Family and Friends welcome. As an expression of sympathy, donations can be made to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation or the Wilberforce Curling Club. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

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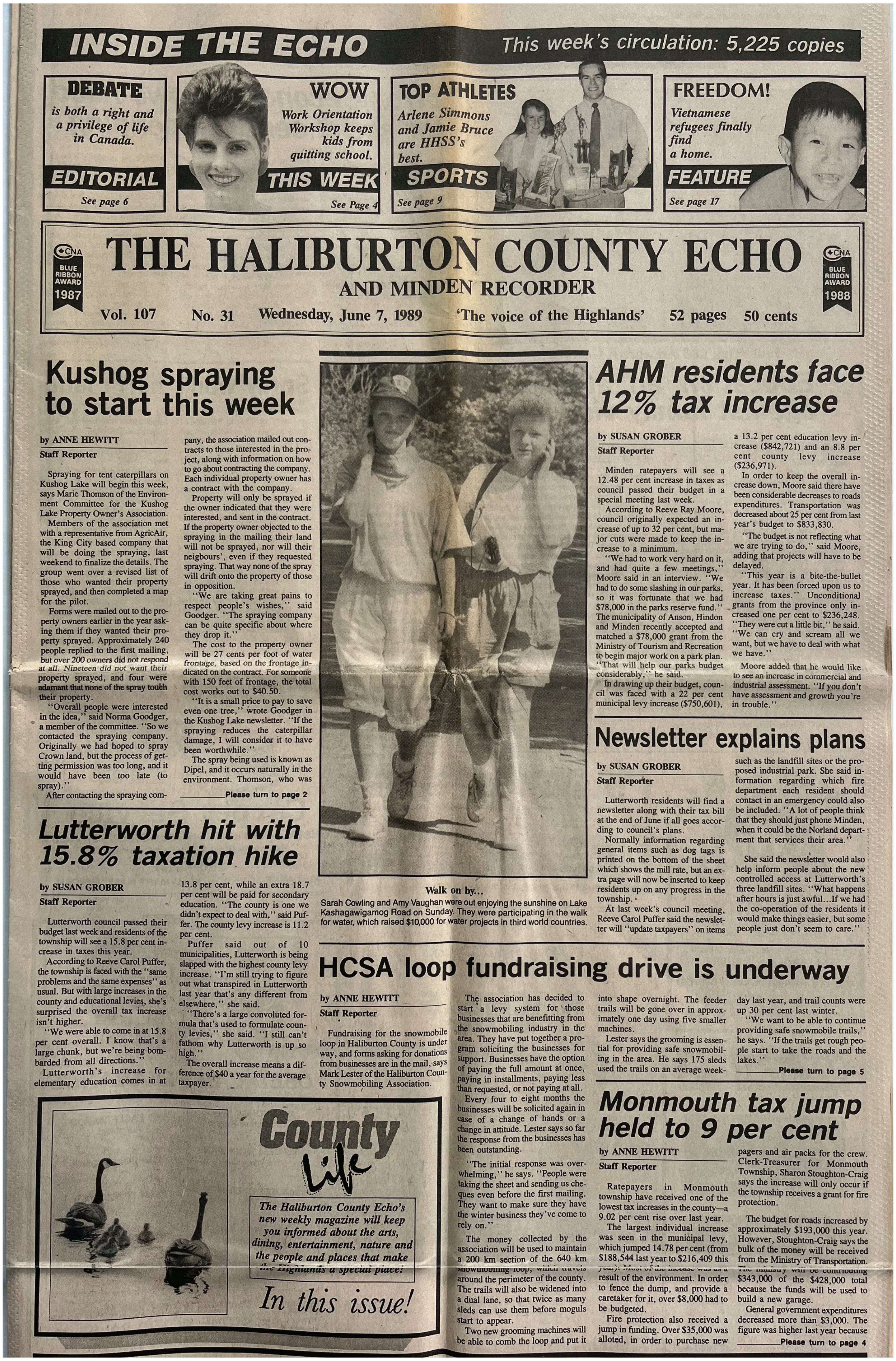

INSIDE THE ECHO This week's circulation: 5,225 copies

DEBATE *is both a right and a privilege of life in Canada.* **EDITORIAL** *See page 6*

WOW *Work Orientation Workshop keeps kids from quitting school.* **THIS WEEK** *See Page 4*

TOP ATHLETES *Arlene Simmons and Jamie Bruce are HHSS's best.* **SPORTS** *See page 9*

FREEDOM! *Vietnamese refugees finally find a home.* **FEATURE** *See page 17*

CNA BLUE RIBBON AWARD 1987

THE HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO
AND MINDEN RECORDER

CNA BLUE RIBBON AWARD 1988

Vol. 107 No. 31 Wednesday, June 7, 1989 'The voice of the Highlands' 52 pages 50 cents

Kushog spraying to start this week

by ANNE HEWITT
Staff Reporter

Spraying for tent caterpillars on Kushog Lake will begin this week, says Marie Thomson of the Environment Committee for the Kushog Lake Property Owner's Association.

Members of the association met with a representative from AgricAir, the King City based company that will be doing the spraying, last weekend to finalize the details. The group went over a revised list of those who wanted their property sprayed, and then completed a map for the pilot.

Forms were mailed out to the property owners earlier in the year asking them if they wanted their property sprayed. Approximately 240 people replied to the first mailing, but over 200 owners did not respond at all. Nineteen did not want their property sprayed, and four were adamant that none of the spray touch their property.

''Overall people were interested in the idea,'' said Norma Goodger, a member of the committee. ''So we contacted the spraying company. Originally we had hoped to spray Crown land, but the process of getting permission was too long, and it would have been too late (to spray).''

After contacting the spraying company, the association mailed out contracts to those interested in the project, along with information on how to go about contracting the company. Each individual property owner has a contract with the company.

Property will only be sprayed if the owner indicated that they were interested, and sent in the contract. If the property owner objected to the spraying in the mailing their land will not be sprayed, nor will their neigbours', even if they requested spraying. That way none of the spray will drift onto the property of those in opposition.

''We are taking great pains to respect people's wishes,'' said Goodger. ''The spraying company can be quite specific about where they drop it.''

The cost to the property owner will be 27 cents per foot of water frontage, based on the frontage indicated on the contract. For someone with 150 feet of frontage, the total cost works out to $40.50.

''It is a small price to pay to save even one tree,'' wrote Goodger in the Kushog Lake newsletter. ''If the spraying reduces the caterpillar damage, I will consider it to have been worthwhile.''

The spray being used is known as Dipel, and it occurs naturally in the environment. Thomson, who was

Please turn to page 2

Lutterworth hit with 15.8% taxation hike

by SUSAN GROBER
Staff Reporter

Lutterworth council passed their budget last week and residents of the township will see a 15.8 per cent increase in taxes this year.

According to Reeve Carol Puffer, the township is faced with the ''same problems and the same expenses'' as usual. But with large increases in the county and educational levies, she's surprised the overall tax increase isn't higher.

''We were able to come in at 15.8 per cent overall. I know that's a large chunk, but we're being bombarded from all directions.''

Lutterworth's increase for elementary education comes in at 13.8 per cent, while an extra 18.7 per cent will be paid for secondary education. ''The county is one we didn't expect to deal with,'' said Puffer. The county levy increase is 11.2 per cent.

Puffer said out of 10 municipalities, Lutterworth is being slapped with the highest county levy increase. ''I'm still trying to figure out what transpired in Lutterworth last year that's any different from elsewhere,'' she said.

''There's a large convoluted formula that's used to formulate county levies,'' she said. ''I still can't fathom why Lutterworth is up so high.''

The overall increase means a difference of $40 a year for the average taxpayer.

Walk on by...
Sarah Cowling and Amy Vaughan were out enjoying the sunshine on Lake Kashagawigamog Road on Sunday. They were participating in the walk for water, which raised $10,000 for water projects in third world countries.

AHM residents face 12% tax increase

by SUSAN GROBER
Staff Reporter

Minden ratepayers will see a 12.48 per cent increase in taxes as council passed their budget in a special meeting last week.

According to Reeve Ray Moore, council originally expected an increase of up to 32 per cent, but major cuts were made to keep the increase to a minimum.

''We had to work very hard on it, and had quite a few meetings,'' Moore said in an interview. ''We had to do some slashing in our parks, so it was fortunate that we had $78,000 in the parks reserve fund.'' The municipality of Anson, Hindon and Minden recently accepted and matched a $78,000 grant from the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation to begin major work on a park plan. ''That will help our parks budget considerably,'' he said.

In drawing up their budget, council was faced with a 22 per cent municipal levy increase ($750,601), a 13.2 per cent education levy increase ($842,721) and an 8.8 per cent county levy increase ($236,971).

In order to keep the overall increase down, Moore said there have been considerable decreases to roads expenditures. Transportation was decreased about 25 per cent from last year's budget to $833,830.

''The budget is not reflecting what we are trying to do,'' said Moore, adding that projects will have to be delayed.

''This year is a bite-the-bullet year. It has been forced upon us to increase taxes.'' Unconditional grants from the province only increased one per cent to $236,248. ''They were cut a little bit,'' he said. ''We can cry and scream all we want, but we have to deal with what we have.''

Moore added that he would like to see an increase in commercial and industrial assessment. ''If you don't have assessment and growth you're in trouble.''

Newsletter explains plans

by SUSAN GROBER
Staff Reporter

Lutterworth residents will find a newsletter along with their tax bill at the end of June if all goes according to council's plans.

Normally information regarding general items such as dog tags is printed on the bottom of the sheet which shows the mill rate, but an extra page will now be inserted to keep residents up on any progress in the township.

At last week's council meeting, Reeve Carol Puffer said the newsletter will ''update taxpayers'' on items such as the landfill sites or the proposed industrial park. She said information regarding which fire department each resident should contact in an emergency could also be included. ''A lot of people think that they should just phone Minden, when it could be the Norland department that services their area.''

She said the newsletter would also help inform people about the new controlled access at Lutterworth's three landfill sites. ''What happens after hours is just awful...If we had the co-operation of the residents it would make things easier, but some people just don't seem to care.''

HCSA loop fundraising drive is underway

by ANNE HEWITT
Staff Reporter

Fundraising for the snowmobile loop in Haliburton County is under way, and forms asking for donations from businesses are in the mail, says Mark Lester of the Haliburton County Snowmobiling Association.

The association has decided to start a levy system for those businesses that are benefitting from the snowmobiling industry in the area. They have put together a program soliciting the businesses for support. Businesses have the option of paying the full amount at once, paying in installments, paying less than requested, or not paying at all.

Every four to eight months the businesses will be solicited again in case of a change of hands or a change in attitude. Lester says so far the response from the businesses has been outstanding.

''The initial response was overwhelming,'' he says. ''People were taking the sheet and sending us cheques even before the first mailing. They want to make sure they have the winter business they've come to rely on.''

The money collected by the association will be used to maintain a 200 km section of the 640 km snowmobiling loop, which travels around the perimeter of the county. The trails will also be widened into a dual lane, so that twice as many sleds can use them before moguls start to appear.

Two new grooming machines will be able to comb the loop and put it into shape overnight. The feeder trails will be gone over in approximately one day using five smaller machines.

Lester says the grooming is essential for providing safe snowmobiling in the area. He says 175 sleds used the trails on an average weekday last year, and trail counts were up 30 per cent last winter.

''We want to be able to continue providing safe snowmobile trails,'' he says. ''If the trails get rough people start to take the roads and the lakes.''

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County Life

The Haliburton County Echo's new weekly magazine will keep you informed about the arts, dining, entertainment, nature and the people and places that make the Highlands a special place!

In this issue!

Monmouth tax jump held to 9 per cent

by ANNE HEWITT
Staff Reporter

Ratepayers in Monmouth township have received one of the lowest tax increases in the county—a 9.02 per cent rise over last year.

The largest individual increase was seen in the municipal levy, which jumped 14.78 per cent (from $188,544 last year to $216,409 this year). Most of the increase was as a result of the environment. In order to fence the dump, and provide a caretaker for it, over $8,000 had to be budgeted.

Fire protection also received a jump in funding. Over $35,000 was alloted, in order to purchase new pagers and air packs for the crew. Clerk-Treasurer for Monmouth Township, Sharon Stoughton-Craig says the increase will only occur if the township receives a grant for fire protection.

The budget for roads increased by approximately $193,000 this year. However, Stoughton-Craig says the bulk of the money will be received from the Ministry of Transportation. The ministry will be contributing $343,000 of the $428,000 total because the funds will be used to build a new garage.

General government expenditures decreased more than $3,000. The figure was higher last year because

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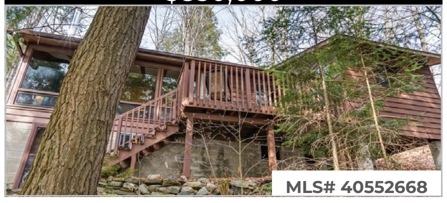
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BRENHOLM LANE
$249,900

MLS# 40586352

GRACE RIVER ROAD
$185,000

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$159,900

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